



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/717,974	11/21/2003	Bo Yeon Kim	9988.081.00-US	8004
30827	7590	10/03/2005	EXAMINER	
MCKENNA LONG & ALDRIDGE LLP 1900 K STREET, NW WASHINGTON, DC 20006			HANSEN, JAMES ORVILLE	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3637	

DATE MAILED: 10/03/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/717,974	KIM, BO YEON	
	Examiner James O. Hansen	Art Unit 3637	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 20 July 2005.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) 1-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 July 2005 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____. | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| | 6) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other: <u>Copy of disapproved drawing</u> . |

DETAILED ACTION***Drawings***

1. The drawings were received on July 20, 2005. These drawings are disapproved by the examiner for the following reason: after review and consideration, it appears that the proposed reference corrections may not be accurate. As currently amended, reference no. 66b is directed to the "display" and reference no. 66a is directed to the "controls". When comparing amended figure 5 with respect to original figure 6 [rear view of fig. 5 embodiment], it appears that the "controls" [66a] depiction is higher in elevation than the "display" [66b] depiction. When compared to amended figure 5, the referenced "display" would be higher in elevation than the referenced "controls". The examiner questions the referencing of the elements in question [should the references be reversed?].

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Applicant's Prior Art Admission of Figures 1-4 [known hereafter as APAA]. APAA teaches of a cabinet cover for a home appliance comprising: a cabinet cover body (12) having an installation hole (12a) at a predetermined location for receiving at a rear side of the installation hole a control panel (26) for controlling the home appliance; and an aesthetic member (14) covering the installation hole, wherein a peripheral edge of the member is attached to a rear side of the cabinet cover body with a joint (see fig.

Art Unit: 3637

3), wherein a front side of the member is attached to the rear side of the cabinet cover body (see fig. 3) by an adhesive agent (B), wherein the aesthetic member is larger than the installation hole, wherein the cabinet cover body and the aesthetic member are made of a stainless steel based material (as evident by the cross-hatched sections), wherein the body and member may be manufactured using an array of cutting devices as is conventionally known in the art, and wherein the aesthetic member is provided with a plurality of holes (fig. 4 for example) for receiving the control panel. As claims 1, 4, 6, 7, 8 and 9, the method of forming the device is not germane to the issue of patentability of the device itself. Since the attaching means is not functionally related in a new or unobvious way to the substrate upon which it is located [merely used to attach the member to the body], the attaching means will not distinguish the invention from the prior art in terms of patentability. Therefore, the limitations "formed by welding"/"forming the joint by welding"/"is welded" have not been given patentable weight. It is noted that the examiner views the front of the member to be attached to an inside rear facing surface of the cabinet cover body.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claims 1-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Applicant's Prior Art Admission of Figures 1-4 [APAA] in view of Snider [U.S. Patent No. 6,018,131]. APAA teaches of a cabinet cover for a home appliance substantially as

Art Unit: 3637

disclosed above, but does not state the prescribed method of attaching the member to the body. Snider (figures 1-9) is cited as an evidence reference to show that it was known in the art at the time the invention was made to employ an array of attaching means/methods for attaching a member to a body (see figures). Accordingly, the position is taken that one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made would deem obvious to attach a member to a body utilizing any of the known [and combinations of the known] conventional attaching methods as taught by Snider since it was known for a worker in the art to select a conventional attaching method on the basis of its suitability for the intended use as a matter of personal preference where the attaching method does not produce any new or unexpected result. Such experimentation involves only routine skill in the art.

Response to Arguments

6. Applicant's arguments filed July 20, 2005 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive. In response to applicant's remarks, it is viewed that the prior art rejections as presently disclosed, adequately address these comments.

Conclusion

7. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not

Art Unit: 3637

mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to James O. Hansen whose telephone number is 571-272-6866. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday between 8-4:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lanna Mai can be reached on 571-272-6867. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



James O. Hansen
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 3637

JOH
September 28, 2005



REPLACEMENT SHEET

FIG. 5

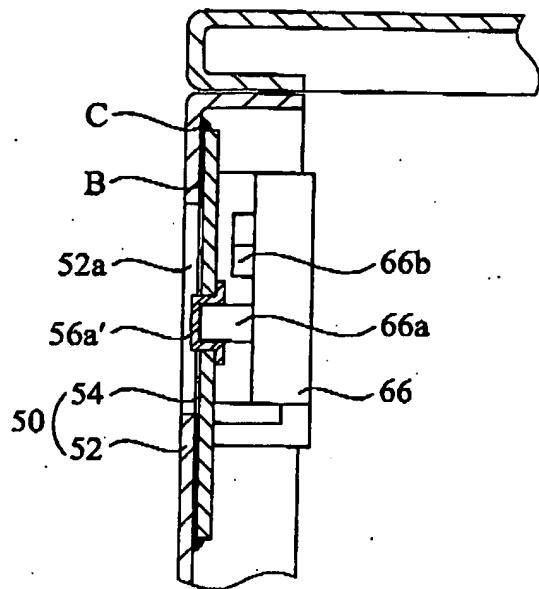
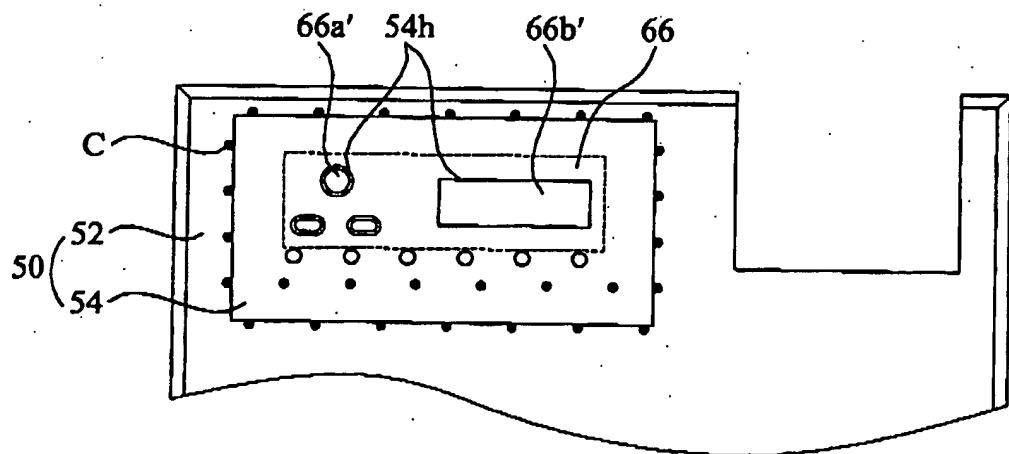


FIG. 6



Not Approved
JUL 20 2015